
Spring Semester 2026
HIST 5399 – Independent Study
Professor: Dr. Edward Tabri
Office: CAS 121
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30-6pm and by appointment.
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Course Overview and Learning Outcomes:

This course will explore the unique situation in sixteenth century Europe when female rulers came to power across western Europe including France, the British Isles and the Netherlands, a phenomenon which the Protestant leader John Knox called “the monstrous regiment of women.” In a very patriarchal society these female monarchs faced many different challenges. We will explore the lives of these women and how they faced these challenges and to what extent they failed or succeeded.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy:

The course will consist of readings and discussions along with six book reviews, each worth 10% of your grade (for a total of 60%), a retrospective comprehensive essay (30%) and attendance and participation (10%). Late papers will not be accepted, the only exceptions being officially documented medical or family emergencies.

Makeup exams will not be given, nor will late papers be accepted; the only exceptions being officially documented medical or family emergencies. Plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated and will result in an F for the course.

Final Withdrawal Date: Monday, March 30.

Required Texts (I will provide you with free ebooks of these)

Karen Rabel, ed. *A Cultural History of Women in the Renaissance* (2013)
Kathleen Wellman, *Queens and Mistresses of Renaissance France* (2013)
Leah Redmond Change, *Young Queens* (2023)
David Loades, *The Tudors: History of a Dynasty* (2012)
Alexander Samson, *Mary and Philip* (2020)
Lacey Baldwin Smith, *Elizabeth Tudor: Portrait of a Queen* (1975)
Charlie Steen, *Margaret of Parma: a Life* (2013)

Calendar of Meetings and Assignments (dates subject to change with advance notice):

Week 1 (Jan. 14)

Course Introduction

Week 2 (Jan. 21)

Discussion of Raber, Introduction and chapters 1-4

Week 3 (Jan 28)

Discussion of Raber, chapters 5-8

Week 4 (Feb. 4)

Discussion of Wellman, Introduction and chapters 1-3

Week 5 (Feb. 11)

Discussion of Wellman, chapters 4-7 and conclusion. Book review of Wellman due.

Week 6 (Feb. 18)

Discussion of Chang, Prologue and chapters 1-13.

Week 7 (Feb. 25)

Discussion of Chang, chapters 14-27 and epilogue. Book review of Chang due.

Week 8 (March 4)

Discussion of Loades. Book review of Loades due.

Week 9 (March 11)

No meeting – Spring Break

Week 10 (March 18)

Discussion of Samson, Introduction and chapters 1-4

Week 11 (March 25)

Discussion of Samson, chapters 5-7 and conclusion. Book review of Samson due.

Week 12 (April 1)

Discussion of Smith

Week 13 (April 8)

Discussion of JSTOR articles on Elizabeth I. Book review of Smith due.

Week 14 (April 15)

Discussion of Steen, Introduction and chapters 1-5.

Week 15 (April 22)

Discussion of Steen, chapters 6-11. Book review of Steen due.

Week 16 (April 29)

Comprehensive essays due.

UT Tyler Statement on AI

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

Additional UT-Tyler Institution Wide Policies:

<https://www.uttyler.edu/offices/academic-affairs/files/syllabuspolicy.pdf>